



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/608,528	06/30/2000	Peter Liao	4103-67101	1133

33031 7590 10/22/2002

CAMPBELL STEPHENSON ASCOLESE, LLP
4807 SPICEWOOD SPRINGS RD.
BLDG. 4, SUITE 201
AUSTIN, TX 78759

EXAMINER

ALCALA, JOSE H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/608,528

Applicant(s)

LIAO ET AL.

Examiner

Jose H Alcala

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2002 and 18 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 June 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 14 March 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 14.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.
2. Figures are improperly crosshatched. All of the parts shown in the section, and only those parts, must be crosshatched. The crosshatching patterns should be selected from those shown on page 600-81 of the MPEP based on the material of the part. See also 37 CFR 1.84(h)(3) and MPEP 608.02.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 1-13, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding Claim 1, it is unclear if the: "at least a first resistance", is a property of the multi-pin component, a property of one or both of the first or the second circuit boards, or is it a separate element such as a resistor. It is further unclear how can the second circuit board provide a connection to the " at least a first resistance thereon", there is not any structural limitation or element in the claim to support that intended use limitation.

Regarding Claim 17, it is not clear what is meant in line 4, by the recitation: "board means for providing at least a portion of a first conductive pathway to a resistor", is the recitation claiming a conductive portion or a conductive via or through hole, and where exactly is it located, in what part of the device. In addition, in line 5, the recitation: "configured for mounting on a second surface of said first circuit board", is further unclear. It is suggested to be changed to: --mounted on a second surface of said first circuit board--. The recitation in lines 6-7: "means for providing at least a portion of a second conductive pathway from said pin to said first conductive pathway", is not clear. It is not clear if it is claiming a conductive portion or a conductive via or hole, or if it is claiming a portion of the pin. In addition, the claim is incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: where is the first conductive pathway and where is the second conductive pathway.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

6. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Dranchak et al. (US Patent No. 5,953,214). As best understood by the examiner:

Regarding Claim 17, Dranchak teaches an apparatus for providing termination for at least a first pin (pin of reference number 11) of a multi-pin component (Reference number 11) to be mounted in a footprint area (area under the component) of a first surface (reference number 22) of a first circuit board (reference number 20), comprising: board means for providing at least a portion of a first conductive pathway (one of Reference number 29) to a resistor (Reference number 27), configured for mounting on a second surface (Reference number 27) of said first circuit board ; and means (dielectric layer 21)for providing at least a portion of a second conductive pathway (one of Reference number 29) from said first pin to said first conductive pathway.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Reasons for Allowance

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fails to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, at least on claim 1 an apparatus for providing termination for at least a first pin of a multi-pin component to be mounted in a footprint area of a first surface of a first circuit board, comprising: a second circuit board, mounted on a second surface of said first circuit board and providing a connection to at least a first resistance present thereon; at least a first conductive pathway from said first surface of said first circuit board to a second surface of said first circuit board to provide access for said at least first pin of said multi-pin component to at least a first location of said second circuit board; and at

Art Unit: 2827

least a second conductive pathway, formed at least partially through said second circuit board, from said first location of said second circuit board to said at least a first resistance.

Response to Arguments

9. Arguments regarding claim 17 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The claim was inadvertently left out in the original non-final rejection, but a rejection to the claim is provided above, stating that the claim is not allowable over the cited reference.

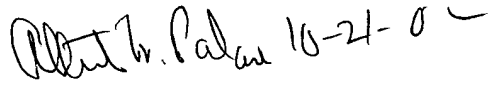
Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jose H Alcala whose telephone number is (703) 305-9844. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Talbott can be reached on (703) 305-9883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 305-3431 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JHA
October 21, 2002


ALBERT W. PALADINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER